

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Coward presided over Mesdames Harrison and Reddick. Messrs. Mackin, Dear, Pollard and Wren.

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

At this point Mr. Coward welcomed Mrs. Jill Dickinson, the Community Services Manager at the District Council who arrived to answer several of the concerns that members had regarding the Terms and Conditions appertaining to the new CCTV contract.

Mrs. Dickinson began with the history behind CCTV coverage arrangements in Shefford, Sandy and Biggleswade including the companies that had managed them previously.

The terms, conditions and clauses were examined in detail and overall it was felt that they tended to favour the District Council. However, several amendments were suggested by the members and Mrs. Dickinson agreed to have a new contract drawn up after consultation with the D C's Legal Department. It is hoped that a new draft including the amendments will be presented to the committee in early January 2008.

Mrs. Dickinson was thanked for her attendance at the meeting after which she left.

**3. PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS**

The November play area reports have been received from the contractor and all issues requiring attention were noted. A litter bin still needs to be installed at the STMA as well as the re-tapping of the bolts on the Stand On See-Saw which is hoped will be done next week.

**4. NEW STREET/GEORGE STREET/BLOOMFIELD DRIVE ONE WAY SYSTEM**

A letter has been received from PC Busby regarding the above. The letter went on to explain that between 14.50hrs and 16.10 hrs PC Busby along with PC Welham from the Beds Police Traffic Management Team looked at issues of both parking and traffic movement around the Robert Bloomfield Middle School and the possibility of introducing a one-way traffic system.

It was agreed that there was a traffic congestion problem which does give rise to concerns about the safety of children and other pedestrians in the area. In the most part the issues arose from lazy and inconsiderate drivers who believe it is their right to park as close to the school as possible.

Measurements of the width of the road were taken and consideration was given to the possibility of a footpath. However, having taken everything into account, it was felt that there was insufficient width left for street parking which would undoubtedly not sit well with the residents. Additional parking could be provided along Bloomfield Drive and although this would remove the hazards from near the school it would be perceived as providing parking and thus encourage people to use their cars which is something that needs to be reduced. Adequate thought should be given to all aspects of road safety for the community and not just congestion that occurs at peak times twice daily during a school term.

**5. CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES FUND**

After due consultation, it was agreed to spend the County Council's Confident Communities Fund should be used towards funding a PCSO and the running costs of the CCTV system. The clerk is to complete the form accordingly, the closing date for which is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

## **6. SURVEY OF ALL TREES OWNED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The committee made a list of all the trees for which the Council has a responsibility with a view to ascertaining if any remedial work is required. A contractor is to be contacted to carry out an analysis of each tree as soon as is practicable. The results of the analysis will then be discussed by the committee prior to organizing the requisite work to be carried out.

## **7. PRECEPT 2008/9**

The precept in respect of the Services and Maintenance committee was established and as such is **RECOMMENDED** to the full Council.

## **8. LORRIES/SIGNAGE – AMPHILL ROAD**

The committee has received a letter of complaint from a resident living in Amptill Road regarding the vast number of lorries that speed down the road particularly early in the morning and late at night. The resident also complained that cracks were now appearing in her house and the windows made a loud banging noise due to the size and speed of the lorries as they thundered past her property. The offending companies were named by the resident but it was also noted that other traffic consistently breaks the speed limit.

## **9. RESPONSE FROM BEDS C C HIGHWAYS–PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN IVEL ROAD**

The committee had previously written to the County Council's Highways Department to request a parking restriction in Ivel Road. A response has now been received informing the committee that the department now operates a 'priority' system categorizing each request as being Low, Medium or High priority. A representative of the Department has now made a site visit and categorized the area as a 'medium priority'. Apparently taking into account other requests of a similar or higher priority they are not in a position to estimate when the works could be carried out.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was reported that the lights at the Campton underpass require attention as several are not working and the glass on some of the lights requires cleaning. The clerk is to contact the County Council Highways Department.

The Highways Department is to be requested to renew the white lines on the road outside the post office as they have virtually eroded due to the constant traffic flow at that point.

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It is understood that the Town Council's Parish Partnership Funding will be used to 'hard surface' the pathway that links New Street to Mallard Close. Bollards will also be installed in order to prevent vehicular access.

The committee has received information from an Amey's engineer that under section 278 a request has been made to move the solar-powered vehicle activated sign to the south of Squires Close. The clerk is to seek further details as the committee hasn't received any such information from the Highways Authority.

The Homewatch co-ordinator has contacted the committee to inform them of a cold calling incident in the town. It is understood that a company based in Coventry is visiting elderly residents in the SG17 postal area about a 'Crime Awareness' programme. Representatives of the company will install equipment aimed at reducing 'break-ins' for a cost of £299 then a monthly charge for upkeep. The total cost appears to be approximately £2,000. The District Council is unaware of any such initiative but a Bedford Trading Standards spokesman says he has heard of them and confirms that they are a legitimate company and they do operate from Coventry. Any residents with concerns should contact the Bedford Trading Standards on 0123 228280 or 08454 040506 for the national service.

A resident has contacted the committee by e:mail requesting information on the bus stop at the corner of Southfields and Clifton Road which is in a dangerous condition. This bus stop was due to be replaced by virtue of an s106 Agreement with the District Council in respect of the Pedley Lane development and it was because of that Agreement that the Town Council withdrew their previous application. Regrettably the s106 Agreement appears to have failed.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.